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## Malaria

1. In 1943, Slovakia reported 20,000 cases of malaria; at the present time, however, it is impossible to give accurate figures for the incidence of malaria or other diseases, because statistics, though collected, are no longer available to the general public. Malaria is widespread in the southeastern part of Slovakia in the valley of the Tisa River. The disease occurs in the tertian, quartan, and also tropical forms. Dr Martin Dziuban established the existence of the tropical form of malaria in Slovakia in 1927.

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2. Efforts to control malaria have been hindered by difficulties of obtaining atabrin, plasmochin and quinine; [ ] however [ ] a real shortage exists or [ ] these items are under rigid control at the present time. An additional difficulty is that farmlands of southeastern Slovakia contain much clay used to build houses, and the removal of the clay leaves holes which fill with water; these stagnant pools naturally breed mosquitoes. Some efforts have been made, however, to control malaria. There are two laboratories located at Presov 4900N-2115E and Michalovice, which assist in the identification and control of malaria. Physicians from these two laboratories tour the countryside and send back materials and blood slides to the laboratories for study and assistance in diagnosis.

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Because of the serious problem created by malaria during the last war, a special propaganda organization was set up at that time by the governmental health administration to wage an anti-malaria campaign. The organization was under the direction of Dr Dziuban. A German doctor, Neumana, visited Slovakia frequently during the war as a malaria expert on behalf of the German military health authorities; he worked with the Wehrmacht whose members were exposed to the disease.

3. No assistance to control malaria was ever received from the Soviets, although they might have been expected to offer aid for several reasons. First, the incidence of malaria is an international problem, affecting Hungary, Poland and particularly the USSR. Second, a railroad line from the USSR extended to Cierna, a small town in which goods from the CSR were transferred from Czech to Soviet trains. Third, in the area south of Kosice /4842N-2115E/, where the Huko Industrial Works (Hutny kombinat) were still under construction, malaria affected the factory workers and probably decreased the number of man hours.
4. At the present time malaria is not a problem in Bohemia, Moravia, or in the City of Bratislava; it is known, however, that the anopheles mosquito is found in Bratislava.
5. When Soviet soldiers were in Slovakia during 1944-45, apparently they were not affected by malaria to the same extent as the Germans.

#### Typhus

6. Before and during World War II, typhus epidemics broke out in Slovakia. These epidemics allegedly occurred because of the free movement of gypsies across the Polish, Ukrainian and Hungarian borders into Slovakia. In 1945, Russian troops carried typhus into Slovakia; approximately 3000 cases were reported. At that time special barracks were built in Presov to house typhus victims. Dr Bardos was especially active in the campaign against typhus.
7. At the present time, typhus is not a problem, especially as border-crossing is almost impossible. Between the borders of the satellite countries, secondary iron curtains exist which prevent intersatellite communication. In this respect, sealing of the borders has assisted in the control of disease. It has, however, prevented scientific cooperation, and has made written communication very difficult.
8. Slovakia utilized Weigl's vaccine during the war to control the typhus epidemics.

#### Tuberculosis

9. Tuberculosis is a very serious disease problem, particularly in Slovakia. According to statements of veterinarians, 50 per cent of the milk cows are affected with the disease. Milk is pasteurized in Bratislava only. Advanced cases of lung and bone tuberculosis are commonly encountered. The rationing of food and poor housing contribute to the spread of the disease.

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10. The program to fight tuberculosis is badly organized by the Slovak health authorities and does not have the support of the people. BCG vaccine [redacted] administered by a [redacted] health team, was introduced in 1948-49. The Czech pharmaceutical plants apparently do not, or cannot, manufacture BCG, and it must be imported. Streptomycin is also imported, but in inadequate amounts. Para-aminosalicylic acid is imported in adequate quantities. Sulfapyridine is scarce; sulfathiazole and sulfaguanidine are available.

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#### Hepatitis Epidemica

11. There is no hepatitis epidemica in Slovakia. Many cases, however, occur in Bohemia and Moravia; it was especially prevalent in the fall of 1951.

[redacted] Hepatitis epidemica broke out among the German soldiers in the Soviet Union in 1943, and these men were returned through Slovakia.

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#### Venereal Disease

12. At the present time, the government through the OUNZ (Okresny Ustav Narodneho Zdravia - District Public Health Administration) is carrying on an intensive fight against venereal disease. Blood tests are being performed on citizens from the ages of 15 to 45, to determine the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhea. Those persons who are found to be infected are immediately sent to a hospital for penicillin treatment. [redacted] persons who are found to be infected are not punished.

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#### Leptospiiral Jaundice

13. Weil's disease, or leptospiiral jaundice, occurs occasionally in Slovakia.

#### Dysentery

14. There is very little dysentery in Slovakia today.

#### Trachoma

15. Trachoma constitutes a serious problem for Slovakia. In 1944, there were five thousand cases of the disease. Incidence is greatest in the central part of Slovakia. The organized fight against the disease was started after the first World War. Slovakia had 124 stations set up to combat trachoma; these units are headed by nurses under the guidance of physicians. Trachoma was allegedly introduced into Slovakia and Hungary by returning laborers who had worked on the Suez Canal and who had contracted the disease there.

#### Typhoid

16. Before World War II typhoid was widespread; during the war, however, there were intense efforts to control the disease and eventually there were only a few cases. After the war, outbreaks increased; 1500 cases were reported in Trnava /4822N-1736E/ in 1945. Incidence has gradually decreased and at the present time there are no epidemics. Mild outbreaks do occur yearly because of the lack of water and sewage systems in small towns. Small amounts of aureomycin and cholormycetin have been imported and distributed to Slovakia from Prague. Cases of typhoid complicated by bowel perforation were reported in Trnava in 1952.

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Paratyphoid

17. Paratyphoid is rare in Slovakia.

Dystrophy

18. [ ] no dystrophy due to shortage of food [ ] has been reported in Slovakia, nor [ ] incidence of avitaminoses, other than occasional cases of D avitaminosis. Although food is inadequate, it is not scarce. Vitamins can be obtained from the Spofa Distributing Agency.

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Dyspepsia

19. Infants suffer from dyspepsia and frequent deaths occur because the incidence of the disease cannot be checked at the present time.

Scabies

20. Scabies is rare.

Diphtheria

21. This disease is rare. In 1942, a law was passed requiring every child to be vaccinated; in 1943 this law was changed so that it affected children up to the age of 10.

Influenza

22. Influenza is no special problem in Slovakia, as there has been no serious epidemic since 1918. At that time, the disease was known as the "Spanish Disease", because it allegedly spread from Spain. At the present time, Dr Dionysus Blazkovic, Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Bratislava, is engaged in research on the influenza virus.

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Tularemia

23. There was no tularemia in Slovakia during or after World War II. It did occur in Moravia, near the Austrian border in 1936 or 1937; there were about 130 cases at that time. [ ] it broke out in Kiev and Smolensk, USSR, in 1943.

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Brucellosis

24. Before World War II this disease occurred quite frequently in cows. The infected animals had been imported [ ] and during their treatment the disease was apparently contracted by the attending veterinarians. It is not a serious problem today.

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Plague and Cholera

25. These diseases do not occur.

Recurrent Fever

26. Recurrent Fever is very rare.

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Poliomyelitis

27. Polio occurs at intervals of four or five years, producing about 300 to 500 light cases.

Ascariasis

28. Ascariasis is very common.

Taenia

29. Taenia infestation has resulted from eating beef but rarely from eating swine.

Cancer

30. There are frequent cases of cancer in Slovakia and it constitutes a serious health problem. Research and therapy are conducted at the Oncological Institute of the Bratislava University. 50X1-HUM

In 1939, the Germans removed the Czech supply of radium, and after the war the Soviet acquired all the Slovak radium, except for an insignificant amount in Bratislava.

Cretinism

31. Cretinism occurs frequently in southern Slovakia, especially among Hungarian residents of that area (a non-mountainous, prairie-like land). The region is apparently very poor in iodine sources. Before World War I, Wagner-Jauregg attempted some research with iodine salt by adding it to the diet of individuals but his work was never completed.

Encephalitis

32. any cases of encephalitis which are of any importance. 50X1-HUM

Psychiatric Illness

33. In 1943, there were about 6000 cases of various psychiatric illnesses in Slovakia. Slovakia has seven or eight psychiatric hospitals.

Foot and Mouth Disease

34. This is always a dangerous disease in Slovakia. Epizootics occurred before the last war, and in the fall of 1951 there was a new outbreak in southwestern Slovakia. Vaccine to combat the disease was obtained from a central institute for vaccine production located in Ivanovice na Hane [4745N-814E], near Brno in Moravia. advice was also obtained from officials of the veterinary school at Brno. (Students at the veterinary school also engaged in work at the vaccine production laboratories in Ivanovice on a large farm in that town.) 50X1-HUM

Equine Encephalitis and Infectious Anemia

35. These diseases were serious problems during World War II. equine encephalitis has assumed epizootic proportions in the south of Slovakia. 50X1-HUM

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Psittacosis

36. [ ] never heard of the occurrence of psittacosis, except for one case which occurred sometime before the war in Prague. 50X1-HUM

Rabies

37. [ ] no outbreak of rabies has occurred since the last War. If necessary, a physician orders a hempt vaccine by telephone from the SZU (State Health Institute, Main Laboratories in Prague). 50X1-HUM

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1. [ ] Comment. The report contains no further identification of which town named Michalovice (or possibly Michalovce) is meant.

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